



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

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NEWS RELEASE

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Maryland man sentenced in connection with the theft of computers from local law firm

WASHINGTON - A 47-year-old Upper Marlboro man, Kenneth Wicks, has been sentenced to 3 years of incarceration, with all but 6 months suspended, and 180 days of home detention with electronic monitoring - the costs of which are to be paid by Wicks, for his role in the theft and eBay sales of computers and computer equipment stolen from the law firm of Wiley Rein & Fielding (since renamed "Wiley Rein"), U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and Joseph Persichini, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, announced today.

Wicks received his sentence earlier today by the Honorable Richard J. Leon, U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, who also ordered that the defendant be placed on 36 months of supervised release, perform 360 hours of community service, and pay restitution of \$37,420.00. Wicks previously pled guilty to the crime of Receiving Stolen Property.

According to information provided to the court in connection with the case by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, between approximately November 2004 and March 2005, a co-defendant, Stephen Richardson, while working in the law firm's IT department where he had access to equipment, stole computers and computer equipment from the law firm, which is located at 1750 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. He provided the property to Wicks, who worked in the mail room. Wicks sold the stolen items through eBay auctions and shipped the equipment to the successful auction bidders from the law firm using the firm's delivery service. Buyers did not know that they had purchased stolen property.

In all, approximately 156 computers and monitors were stolen, with eBay sales proceeds of approximately \$74,420.00. The crime was uncovered when an eBay buyer attempted to have the computer warranty transferred into his name, contacted Dell computer company directly, and was advised that the computer at issue had been leased to Wiley Rein & Fielding. The buyer contacted the law firm. The law firm referred the matter

to law enforcement.

The co-defendant, Stephen Richardson, has also pleaded guilty and is scheduled to be sentenced on April 16, 2009.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor and FBI Assistant Director in Charge Persichini commended the work of the FBI Special Agents who investigated the case and the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Legal Assistant Lisa Robinson and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, who prosecuted the case.

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